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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ... ANNUAL SESSION

By

Farmers' State Alliance of North Carolina

1889

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# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE,

## THIRD ANNUAL SESSION,

August 14, 15 and 16, 1889.

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FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., August 13, 1889.

The North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance assembled in Williams' Hall at 11 o'clock A. M., and was called to order and opened in due form by President S. B. Alexander, Bro. G. W. Greene, of Wilkes county, officiating as Chaplain.

The President appointed a Committee on Credentials, as follows: W. J. Green, L. N. Durham and H. E. King.

The committee, through its chairman, reported the following as the delegates bearing properly-authenticated certificates:

| *County.* | *Delegate.* | *Post-Office.* |
|---|---|---|
| Alamance | B. F. White | Mebane. |
| Alexander | W. E. White | Avilla. |
| Anson | J. W. McGregor | Wadesboro. |
| Bertie | James Bond | Windsor. |
| Beaufort | W. A. Blount | Chockowinity. |
| Bladen | Elihu Meares | Clarkton. |
| Brunswick | L. Sellers | Supply. |
| Buncombe | N. Plumadore | Carrier's Springs. |
| Burke | James V. McCall | Baton. |
| Cabarrus | A. F. Heilman | Concord. |
| Camden | W. M. Hinton | South Mills. |
| Carteret | Ralph Howland | Beaufort. |
| Caldwell | W. A. Pool | Lenoir. |
| Craven | H. H. Perry | James City. |
| Caswell | George Williamson | Yanceyville. |
| Catawba | H. A. Forney | Newton. |
| Columbus | J. F. Harrell | Whiteville. |
| Chatham | J. W. Atwater | Rialto. |

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| *County.* | *Delegate.* | *Post-Office.* |
|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | L. N. Durham | Shelby. |
| Clay | T. H. Hancock | Hayesville. |
| Chowan | Wood Privott | Rockyhock |
| Cherokee | J. T. Hayes | Tomatola. |
| Cumberland | W. J. Green | Fayetteville. |
| Currituck | W. S. Mercer | Moyock. |
| Davidson | John W. Upchurch | Thomasville. |
| Davie | W. F. Merrill | Fork Church. |
| Duplin | J. B. Oliver | Mount Olive. |
| Durham | R. G. Russell | South Lowell. |
| Edgecombe | J. A. Davis | Tarboro. |
| Franklin | M. S. Davis | Louisburg. |
| Forsyth | Virgil A. Wilson | Pfafftown. |
| Gates | H. Clay Williams | Willeyton. |
| Greene | Y. T. Ormond | Hookerton. |
| Granville | N. H. Fleming | Dutchville. |
| Gaston | Moses Stroup | Snapp. |
| Guilford | D. P. White | High Point. |
| Halifax | William Burnett | Enfield. |
| Haywood | R. Winfield | Dutch Cove. |
| Harnett | J. A. Green | Lillington. |
| Henderson | J. B. Freeman | Hendersonville. |
| Hertford | John F. Newsom | Winton. |
| Iredell | Julian Allen | Statesville. |
| Jackson | E. D. Davis | Webster. |
| Johnston | J. J. Young | Polenta. |
| Jones | E. M. Foscue | Trenton. |
| Lenoir | J. M. Mewborne | Kinston. |
| Lincoln | J. W. A. Payne | Kidsville |
| Macon | F. M. Morgan | Flats. |
| Madison | L. M. Bryan | Marshall. |
| Martin | J. B. Coffield | Everetts. |
| McDowell | W. G. Hunter | Nebo. |
| Mecklenburg | F. S. Neal | Charlotte. |
| Montgomery | R. T. Rush | Pekin. |
| Moore | George Wilcox | Carbonton. |
| Mitchell | S. M. C. Green | Bakersville. |
| Nash | George E. Hunt | Ringwood. |
| Northampton | W. J. Rogers | Margarettsville. |
| Onslow | H. E. King | Peanut. |
| Orange | James Norwood | Hillsboro. |
| Pamlico | J. F. Brinson | Grantsboro. |
| Pasquotank | J. M. Weeks | Newbegun. |
| Pender | T. J. Armstrong | Rocky Point. |

Hyde Co. D. H. Carter

| *County.* | *Delegate.* | *Post-Office.* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Person | William Merritt | Roxboro. | |
| Pitt | E. A. Moye | Greenville. | H Harding |
| Perquimans | Robert White | Hertford. | J Skinner |
| Polk | J. M. Hoyle | Mill Springs. | W M Justice |
| Randolph | E. B. Kearns | Farmers. | N. C. English |
| Richmond | Thomas H. Walters | Laurel Hill. | |
| Robeson | J. F. Payne | Alma. | S. S. Humphr |
| Rockingham | T. B. Lindsey | Douglas. | R. P. Henry |
| Rowan | S. M. Hobson | Mount Vernon. | J. K. Graham |
| Rutherford | S. F. Harrell | Factory. | J F Flock |
| Sampson | John A. Oates | Clinton. | O. F. Henry |
| Swain | A. H. Hayes | Birdtown. | |
| Transylvania | Thomas Wood | Calhoun. | |
| Union | J. A. Marsh | Beaver Dam. | X |
| Vance | Walter Bullock | Williamsboro. | J. H. Dunn |
| Wake | R. J. Powell | Raleigh. | X |
| Warren | J. M. Brame | Macon. | H B. Hunter |
| Washington | D. W. Davis | Lee's Mills. | L. J. Fagan |
| Watauga | W. W. Presnell | Boone. | J. C. Ray |
| Wayne | J. W. Bryan | Goldsboro. | Parker |
| Wilkes | G. W. Green | Moravian Falls. | C C Wright |
| Wilson | W. S. Barnes | Toisnot. | |
| Yadkin | C. M. Holcombe | Chestnut Ridge. | L G Hunt |
| Yancey | J. E. Robertson | Micaville. | |

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.

S. B. Alexander, President; Thaddeus Ivey, Vice-President; L. L. Polk, Secretary; J. D. Allen, Treasurer; D. Reid Parker, Lecturer; D. D. McIntyre, Assistant Lecturer; Carr Moore, Chaplain; W. H. Tomlinson, Door-Keeper; J. S. Holt, Sergeant-at-Arms; W. A. Darden, Business Agent; W. A. Graham, Trustee; Elias Carr and J. S. Johnson, Executive Committee; J. L. McLean, Judiciary Committee.

The President delivered his annual address, as follows:

*Officers and Delegates of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance:*

The third annual meeting of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance marks an era of unity of action among the agricultural and laboring classes that is phenomenal, and I congratulate you in representing an order in numbers and intelligence that has had no equal in our State. Less than six months old, at our first annual meeting, it had eight County Alliances, and one hundred and thirty-two Sub-Alliances. At

Stanley. M L Barhardt
Stokes W. T. Smith
Tyrrell Ed Hopkins

the second annual meeting it had fifty-two County Alliances and one thousand and eighteen Sub-Alliances, and to-day we have eighty-nine County Alliances and one thousand eight hundred and sixteen Sub-Alliances, with an approximate membership of seventy-two thousand members. So rapidly has the State been organized that many of the Sub-Alliances have not been instructed in the purposes and principles of our order as thoroughly as they should be to insure their active and effective work. The important work of organizing new Sub-Alliances in unorganized sections can be completed before our next annual meeting. I refer you to the reports of the Executive Committee, Secretary, Treasurer, State Lecturer and Organizer and State Business Agent for the condition of our order, and deem it unnecessary to say more than to commend them to your earnest consideration.

At the last meeting of the National Alliance, a basis of union was agreed upon between the National Alliance and the National Agricultural Wheel and the Union. This, if ratified, will change the name of the national organization to "The Farmers' and Laborers' Union." It does not change our State name nor effect us in any way, as all the important features of the constitution of the National Farmers' Alliance are retained in the proposed constitution of "The Farmers' and Laborers' Union." I recommend its adoption, as it adds very much to the strength of the National organization, and will enable it to accomplish work that it has been too weak to do heretofore. I believe other farmers' and laborers' organizations will join us at our next national meeting at St. Louis, and also a better understanding will be arrived at with other labor organizations. These organizations were brought into existence by monopoly, and as long as monopoly shapes our laws to rob the people the war must go on until monopoly is dethroned or the people crushed.

### ALLIANCE DEMANDS.

The "demands" made at our last meeting for certain legislation have not been granted, and I would respectfully and earnestly recommend that you determine at this meeting to either abandon making political demands or take such action as will insure your demands being complied with. If you resolve on the latter course, I suggest that hereafter all demands be submitted to the Sub-Alliances for ratification, and when three-fourths of the Sub-Alliances ratify a demand, have your President issue a proclamation setting it forth as the demand of the State Alliance. The discussion in the Sub-Alliances will inform the members as to the necessity and propriety of the demands, and the members, knowing that they made the demands, will see that they are enforced, and then "taffy" and "love" for the farmers and laborers will give way for measures of real benefit. I would also suggest that you send no petitions after a demand has been made. Demands and petitions are incom-

patible. If we are to beg, let us do it in the approved style, and not demand one moment and beg the next.

ALLIANCE CHARTER.

With the approval of your Executive Committee, I had a charter prepared incorporating the State Alliance and each County and Sub-Alliance (provided only those Alliances that should accept it should be incorporated). It is a liberal charter, and I commend it to your favorable consideration. One very important section of the charter was stricken out by the Senate, and I will bring it to your attention at another time. This action of the Senate and the contempt with which it treated your demands and petitions clearly shows that it was hostile to us. We had a few friends there, and they deserve our thanks. An inspection of the Senate Journal will show you who were for us and who against us.

STATE BUSINESS AGENCY.

The State Business Agency has not proved the success we anticipated, and I urge you to to give this department everything you can to make it what it ought to be. It is the right arm of the Alliance, and if you do nothing else at this meeting but perfect this deparment, you will deserve well of the Alliance. Its failure to do what is expected of it creates a desire for co-operative stores. This is to be regretted, for co-operative stores have no place in the plan of the Alliance. The Alliance was brought into existence to protect the agricultural and laboring classes against monopolies—not to make merchants—and its agency system is the only one I have ever seen that suits the present condition of the farmers and laborers of our country. Let us keep it within its sphere and not form entangling alliances that will effect our credit and weaken our order.

THE LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT.

The strength of the Alliance consists in the individual intelligence of its membership. This fact makes the Lecturer's department of more importance than any of the others. I recommend that you give the Lecturer more assistants and define their duties so they (the Lecturer and assistants) alone will be held responsible for their work. They should be made the authorized agents of our National and State organs, and for such other Alliance literature as will benefit the order. If we can get our membership to read our paper, and other literature—to keep them informed of our progress—to better understand our purposes—we will be able to accomplish whatever we undertake; without it, we will fail, for no people can act together without understanding the questions that confront them and the measures demanded for their relief. An intelligent membership is more to be desired than numbers, for open enemies are few in comparison to those of the "advisory family," many of

whom are equally as shrewd as their ancestor who "got in his work" on the mother of mankind in the Garden of Eden.

The financial condition of the membership has not improved since our last meeting, nor can I see any hope of improvement as long as trusts and combines fix the price on nearly everything we buy or sell. Whether crops are good or bad, they manage to leave the farmer in about the same condition; and thus the intelligent and ambitious young men of the country are being driven to the towns and cities. They see "the few" in the cities controlling corporate power by which they annually collect millions of dollars, no matter whether the seasons are good or bad, and lured by chance, they take the risk. This making it easier for a man to get rich in the city than in the country has caused the downfall of the civilizations that have preceded us, as it enabled "the few," by combines, to create monopolies by which they robbed the people of their wealth and political power, and when the enormous wealth of "the few" became so great that it was not remunerative in the cities, they monopolized the land of the country, and the people became vassals in fact. When the Goths and Vandals conquered Rome, they only conquered the barbarians of Rome, made so by Roman laws that enabled "the few" to rob "the many." Laws that act thus destroy individual intelligence, for individual intelligence cannot exist without individual ability to acquire it. The classes to which our membership belong have suffered worse than others from evil laws in all the civilizations that have preceded us, and if we fail to do our duty, we cannot complain when we find "like laws produce like results." To you, delegates, our order in this State looks for guidance, and in returning to you the Executive badge, I return my sincere thanks to the State Alliance, to each County and Sub-Alliance, and to the members individually for the kindness and consideration shown me; and especially do I commend to your consideration my associate officers of the State Alliance. They, not I, deserve your praise for the great work of organizing our State so well.

To you, delegates, the welfare of the Alliance is entrusted; on your labor it relies for those laws that will promote the welfare of our members and the advancement of our order. May God bless your labors and bless the Alliance!

The President announced the following committees:

*Order of Business*—George Williamson, J. M. Brame, D. P. White and T. J. Armstrong.

*Judiciary*—W. A. Graham, J. L. McLean, W. J. Rogers, R. J. Powell and Julian Allen.

*Demands and Resolutions*—W. J. Green, F. S. Neal, J. A. Davis, John W. Atwater, H. H. Perry, James Bond and T. B. Lindsey.

*Constitution and By-Laws*—E. A. Moye, J. W. A. Payne, J. B. Coffield, J. A. Marsh, J. F. Harrell, S. M. Hobson and J. M. Weeks.

*Immigration*—Julian Allen, J. W. McGregor, J. B. Oliver, J. J. Young, J. V. McCall, N. H. Fleming and R. J. Powell.

*Miscellaneous Subjects.*—Thomas H. Walters, John A. Oates, James Norwood, L. M. Bryan and J. W. Bryan.

*On Publications*—J. M. Mewborne, N. C. English and W. F. Tomlinson.

The Secretary read his annual report, as follows:

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

*Bro. President, and Members of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance:*

The condition and spirit of the order in our State is gratifying and hopeful. Our growth and progress during the year just past has been steady and of a substantial character. A better understanding and comprehension of our principles and purposes has grown out of discussion and investigation, and has done much to disarm prejudice and opposition, and has had the happy effect in our brotherhood of strengthening the weak, convincing the doubtful, and of confirming the strong. At your last annual meeting we had 1,018 Subordinate Alliances in the State, with fifty-two County Alliances, with an aggregate membership on our rolls approximating forty-two thousand. To-day we have 1,816 Subordinate Alliances, with eighty-nine County Alliances and an aggregate membership approximating seventy-two thousand. During the year twenty Subordinate Alliances (not included in the above statement) surrendered their charters. Six of these united with other Alliances, and in many cases a majority of the members attached themselves to other Alliances, and are thus still identified with us and are doing faithful work.

All the counties in the State have county organizations except the following: Alleghany, Ashe, Dare, Graham, Macon, New Hanover and Surry. In these, the following have Subordinate Alliances, as follows: Ashe, two; Macon, one; Surry, one.

Since your last meeting, County Alliances have been organized in the following counties: Alexander, Beaufort, Bertie, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Camden, Carteret, Catawba, Cherokee, Chowan, Clay, Currituck, Gaston, Gates, Guilford, Haywood, Henderson, Hertford, Hyde, Jackson, McDowell, Madison, Mitchell, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Polk, Stokes, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Washington, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey.

One hundred and forty four deputy organizers have been commissioned during the year, but in most cases it was a renewal of commissions which had expired. Very many of these were commissioned to complete the organization of their counties. Bro. G. B. Pickett, of Texas, served us in the capacity of State Lecturer and Organizer nearly two months, concluding his work in October last. Bro. D. Reid Parker, of Trinity College, was appointed State Lecturer by our Executive Committee, and has acted in that capacity up to date. Bro. Harry Tracy, of Texas, was secured by our Executive Committee and has been lecturing in our State since the 6th of last June.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Since your last meeting, this office has received from all sources, including balance of $2,014.09 on hand August 13, 1888 | $15,193 01 |
| Disbursed, as per vouchers in hands of Treasurer | 8,172 52 |
| Balance in hands of Treasurer | $ 7,020 49 |

Your Executive Committee has examined the books of the office, containing a detailed statement of the receipts and disbursements, and will report thereon. The general statement of the purposes for which expenditures were made, and proper vouchers for the same, are in the hands of the Treasurer.

Fraternally,

L. L. POLK,

*Secretary N. C. Farmers' State Alliance.*

August 13, 1889.

The Treasurer's report was read, of which the following is an abstract:

RECEIPTS:

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance on hand August 13, 1888 | $ 2,014 09 |
| Amount from fees and dues | 10,198 42 |
| Charter fees | 2,435 50 |
| Sale of Rituals and Constitution | 545 00 |
| Total | $ 15,193 01 |

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | |
|---|---|
| State Alliance of 1888 | $ 1,000 41 |
| Miscellaneous expenditures, as per vouchers in hands of Treasurer | 7,172 11 |
| Total | $ 8,172 52 |
| Balance in hands of Treasurer | $ 7,020 49 |

J. D. ALLEN,

*Treasurer.*

The Executive Committee submitted its report, as follows:

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

*To the Officers and Members of North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance:*

BRETHREN: We, the members of your Executive Committee, respectfully beg leave to offer the following report:

We have carefully examined the books and accounts of the Secretary, Treasurer, Business Agent, and Trustee, and find them correct and satisfactory.

The bonds of the officials are amply secured, and are now in the hands of the chairman of the Executive Committee.

We hereby make the following recommendations to this body:

That this committee be required to meet quarterly in the city of Raleigh, on the third Wednesday after the first Friday in each quarter, as an auditing committee, and to transact such other business as may seem to them of importance.

That section 3 of Article VI be amended by striking out all after the word "notify," in the second line, and inserting in lieu thereof: "the Secretary of Sub-Alliance shall notify the Secretary of his County Alliance, and the Secretary of the said County Alliance shall notify all Secretaries of Sub-Alliances in his county."

That Article XI, section 1, be amended by striking out, in line nine, "and approved by the President."

That all Sub-Alliances are requested to immediately subscribe to the Business Agency Fund an amount not below an average of one dollar per member.

That, in the future, the salary of the Trustee be paid out of the State Alliance fund as the salary of the other officers, and that all interests accruing from the Business Agency fund be covered into the treasury.

Your committee again earnestly calls the attention of this body to the tardiness of County Secretaries in making their reports. Though the present quarter is now half gone by, many of the Secretaries have not yet filed their reports, which delay renders it impossible at this time to make a complete statement as to the condition of the Alliance. There seems to be no excuse for this tardiness.

ELIAS CARR,
J. S. JOHNSTON,
T. IVEY,
*Executive Committee.*

Bro. Darden, Business Agent, and Bro. Graham, Trustee, each submitted his report, setting forth in detail the opera-

tions of his office for the year. Among other things, the Business Agent stated that he had secured 270,000 yards of cotton bagging for the members of the order.

The Trustee reported cash receipts for the Business Fund $22,414.74; in good pledges, $5,319.40. He stated that the amount necessary to operate the Agency succesfully, he had no doubt, would be raised.

Bro. J. F. Payne, of Robeson, offered the following resolutions, which were subsequently adopted:

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, at its session in the month of August, 1888, declared itself, by a unanimous vote, to be in favor of the establishment of a Railroad Commission in North Carolina, with power to the Commissioners to regulate freight and passenger rates upon an equitable and just basis; and whereas, by a like unanimous vote, the Legislature of North Carolina was petitioned by said Alliance to enact such a law; and whereas, this demand was then and is now just, reasonable and proper; and whereas, this measure of relief, so equitable and just in its nature, and so earnestly desired by a large proportion of our people, was defeated at the last session of the General Assembly recently adjourned; and whereas, these failures on the part of our law-making power to enact some such law are viewed by us with serious apprehension and alarm; and whereas, it is generally believed that the remedies given by statute are dead letters in the books and are not executed: therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we hereby declare our unqualified disapproval of the action of the Legislature of 1889, whereby the Railroad Commission bill was defeated, and condemn the same as unwise and unpatriotic.

*Resolved*, We again declare our deliberate judgment, that the enactment of such a Railroad Commission in North Carolina is a necessity, and that the demand for such legislation is just, reasonable and proper.

*Resolved*, With full confidence in the correctness of our position upon the question, we again demand of the General Assembly of North Carolina the enactment of a Railroad Commission law with full powers to the Commissioners to regulate freight and passenger rates upon a just and reasonable basis, and with further power to investigate and take suitable action with respect to damages or injuries to persons and property.

*Resolved*, That it is the deliberate sense of this State Alliance that the farmers of the State should go into the primary meetings and, if possible, secure the nomination of such men for seats in the General Assembly as will use their best efforts to enact a Railroad Commission bill.

*Resolved*, That the State Secretary shall transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Secretaries of the Subordinate and County Alliances, who will submit them to their respective Alliances for ratification, and shall certify the action of the same to the State Secretary.

Sundry resolutions on various subjects were introduced and referred to proper committees.

Moved by Bro. J. F. Payne, a special committee of three should be appointed, to whom should be referred the annual message of the President and reports of the various State officers, and who should report to this body such of the recommendations as should be considered by special committees. Adopted, and the President announced the committee as follows: J. F. Payne, H. A. Forney and A. H. Hayes.

On motion of W. A Graham, the Business Agency Fund was made the special order for to-morrow afternoon immediately after the noon recess.

W. J. Green's resolutions, relating to trusts and combines, referred to Committee on Demands and Resolutions.

On motion of F. S. Neal, the cotton feature of the Business Agency was made the special order for 10 A. M. to-morrow.

The Door-Keeper announced the presence of Bro. C. W. Macune, President of the National Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative Union of America.

President Alexander escorted Bro. Macune to the rostrum and introduced him to the body, and he was greeted with the warmest enthusiasm.

Bro. Macune responded in the happiest manner, expressing his sincere appreciation of the cordial and fraternal spirit which had marked his reception.

Bro. Polk offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That this body hereby expresses the sincere pleasure afforded by the visit of Bro. C. W. Macune, our worthy National President, and we respectfully request him to address the body at 8:30 A. M. to-morrow.

On motion, the Alliance adjourned to 8:30 A. M. to-morrow.

## WEDNESDAY—Morning Session.

Fayetteville, N. C., August 14, 1889.

The Alliance met at 8:30 A. M., and was opened in due form President Alexander in the chair.

Bro. C. W. Macune was introduced by President Alexander, and delivered a most able and interesting address on the principles and purposes of our order.

The Committee on the Order of Business submitted the following:

Your Committee on the Order of Business beg leave to submit the following report as the order of business governing this body:

1. Calling the roll.
2. Address by the President.
3. Reading minutes of preceding meeting.
4. Appointing special committees.
5. Reports of officers and standing committees.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Reports of special committees.
9. Business with National Alliance.
10. Election of officers and election and appointment of standing committees.
11. Lecturing.
12. Installation of officers.
13. Adjournment.

The report was adopted.

The President announced the annual election of officers as the special order for this hour, and appointed J. L. McLean and W. J. Rogers as tellers.

Bro. J. M. Mewborne placed in nomination for President the name of Bro. Elias Carr, of Edgecombe, and Bro. Carr was unanimously elected.

Bro. Bryan moved that the election of the remaining officers be postponed until 8:30 P. M., and the motion was adopted.

The unfinished business being the report of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, the following resolution of Bro. King was reported favorably by the Committee, and elicited considerable discussion:

*Resolved*, That section 1, article XI, of the Constitution be amended by striking out the word "$1,200," in line five, and insert in lieu thereof the word "$800"; and striking out the word "$3," in line seventeen, and insert "$2."

Bro. Fleming moved to amend by striking out $1,200 and inserting $1,500.

Bro. Hancock moved, as a substitute for the amendments, that the said section and article remain unchanged.

Bro. King called the previous question, and called for the ayes and noes.

Upon a call of the roll the following voted in the affirmative:

AYES—B. F. White, W. E. White, Jas. Bond, L. Sellers, W. A. Blount, E. Meares, N. Plumadore' J. V. McCall, J. F. Harrell, W. J. Green, W. S. Mercer, Jno. W. Atwater, H. A. Forney, Geo. Williamson, L. N. Durham, T. H. Hancock, Wood Privott, W. A. Pool, J. B. Oliver, R. G. Russell, W. F. Merrill, M. S. Davis, V. S. Wilson, H. C. Williams, Y. T. Ormond, N. H. Fleming, Moses Stroup, D. P. White, William Burnett, J. Newsom, Julian Allen, J. J. Young, J. M. Mewborne, J. W. A. Payne, S. M. C. Greene, F. M. Morgan, W. G. Hunter, F. S. Neal, R. T. Rush, Geo. Wilcox, G. E. Hunt, Jas. Norwood, T. J. Armstrong, J. M. Hoyle, E. B. Kearns, T. B. Lindsey, S. F. Harrell, Thos. Wood, Walter Bullock, R. J. Powell, W. W. Presnell, J. W. Bryan, G. W. Green, W. S. Barnes, C. M. Holcombe, J. B. Freeman, Robt. Winfield, E. D. Davis, A. H. Hayes, S. B. Alexander, Thaddeus Ivy, J. D. Allen, W. A. Darden, W. A. Graham, Elias Carr, J. S. Johnson, J. L. McLean, W. H. Tomlinson, J. S. Holt, Carr Moore, D. D. McIntyre, D. R. Parker—72.

The following voted in the negative:

NOES—J. W. McGregor, Ralph Howland, A. F. Heilman, H. H. Perry, W. M. Hinton, J. W. Upchurch, J. A. Davis, J. F. Payne, S. M. Hobson, J. A. Marsh, D. W. Davis, J. E. Robertson, Jno. A. Green, E. M. Foscue, J. B. Coffield, W. J. Rogers, H. E. King, J. F. Brinson, J. M. Weeks, E. A. Moye, Robt. White, Thos. H. Walters—22.

On motion, the Alliance adjourned to meet at 2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION, August 14, 1889.

The Alliance was called to order by the President at 2:30 P. M.

The special order—the Business Agency Fund—was taken up and discussed at length, and was displaced by the special order—the cotton feature of the Business Agency—which was presented by the committee in the following report:

WHEREAS, Some of the County Alliances in this State, in establishing Cotton Agencies, have enabled their members to get better prices for their cotton and have been a great protection to the members against speculation, and believing that, in order to control the price, we must control the cotton: therefore be it

*Resolved*, 1. That this State Alliance establish a Cotton Agency for the purpose of enabling the members of the Farmers' Alliance throughout the State to sell their cotton more advantageously, and thereby relieve the farmers of the burdens and oppressions laid upon them by cotton speculators.

2. That we recommend that each County Alliance, or two or more County Alliances together, establish some system for collecting their cotton through their County Agent, thereby putting it in shape to be handled through the State Agency.

3. That the President appoint a special committee of three to report to this body a location for said Agency, and to draft a plan by which the Agency can be operated.

The resolutions were adopted, and the following were announced as the committee: F. S. Neal, J. M. Mewborne and W. J. Rogers.

The consideration of the report of the Committtee on Constitution and By-Laws was resumed, and quite a number of amendments to the Constitution were proposed and were tabled.

The following amendment, proposed by the Committee, was adopted:

In line one, section 11, Rules of Order, strike out the words "motions and."

North Carolina State Library,
Raleigh



The following resolutions, introduced by W. J. Green, were endorsed and recommended by the Committee:

WHEREAS, We hold these truths to be self-evident: that needless taxation is robbery, and needless restriction, tyranny, and submission to both, slavery; that whether these abnormal claims are arrogated or usurped by kingship or by combination in nowise mitigates the crime; and whereas, trade combinations under various names have of late been formed throughout our land, whose open purpose and practical effect is to tax consumers of the necessaries of life by restricting or crushing out trade competition, thus enabling the said associations to place arbitrary, unwarranted and onerous prices upon their monopolized products, and thus exercise the two highest functions of the most despotic government: therefore be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense and wish of the North Carolina Famers' State Alliance, in convention assembled, as we have reason to believe it to be of all other associations looking only to self-protection against unnecessary greed and rapacity, and of the great army of consumers generally in their individual capacity, that something should be done, and that right speedily, in the interest of our people, or against monopolistic extortion and robbery.

*Resolved*, In furtherance of above resolution, that if any dutiable article has been, or shall hereafter be, made one of combination by those principally interested in its manufacture and sale, for the purpose of shutting out or controlling legitimate competition, and thus establishing a monopoly on such article, be that combination known as *trust*, *pool*, or *combine*, or by any other name, style or designation whatsoever, the import duty on such article or articles should at once be reduced at least fifty per centum on rate then existing under the tariff schedule, for the first year thereafter and placed on the free list at the expiration thereof if the grievance is not in the meantime abolished.

*Resolved further*, We hold that whoever enters into such combination with such obvious intent should be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, if not a felony, and be punished by adequate fine or imprisonment, or by both.

*Resolved*, That we request—nay urge and insist—that our Senators and Representatives in Congress shall go to the extreme limit of Constitutional prerogative in carrying out, by means suggested or by any other more efficacious, the wish herein embodied, that this monopolistic combination of capital for purpose of extortion, the most crying evil which has had birth under our government, the curse of the age and the shame of the land, may receive its death-blow at the earliest day practicable.

*Resolved*, That we request the earnest co-operation of other State Alliances and of the Inter-State Farmers' Association, which is to meet

during the coming week at Montgomery, and labor organizations generally, in furtherance of this most just, patriotic and reasonable demand.

*Resolved*, That in view of the magnitude of the evil complained of, we hope that a select committee will be authorized by each House of Congress to take exclusive cognizance of this and cognate subjects.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished to the North Carolina delegates to the Inter-State Farmers' Association, and also to the delegates of this Alliance to the Farmers' and Laborers' Union at St. Louis in December next, with request to ask their adoption by these bodies.

Adopted unanimously.

The Alliance adjourned until 8:30 P. M.

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EVENING SESSION, August 14, 1889.

The Alliance was called to order at 8:30 P. M., by the President.

On motion of A. H. Hayes, the special order was deferred, that the resolution relating to the State Lecturer and assistant lecturers might be considered, as follows:

*Resolved*, That there be, in addition to the State Lecturer, one assistant lecturer for each Congressional District in the State.

Bro. Bryan offered the following, as a substitute:

*Resolved*, That the State Lecturer, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, shall appoint such assistant lecturers as may be necessary to do the work of his office efficiently.

The substitute was adopted.

Bro. G. W. Green offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee to secure the promised reduction in rates on railroads for delegates, and to report to-morrow morning. Adopted.

The following were appointed said committee: G. W. Green, J. J. Young and E. Meares.

The President announced the special order—the election of officers.

The election resulted as follows:

*Vice-President*—A. H. Hayes, of Swain.
*Secretary*—L. L. Polk, of Wake.
*Treasurer*—J. D. Allen, of Wake.
*Chaplain*—Rev. J. J. Scott, of Robeson.
*Lecturer*—T. B. Long, of Buncombe.
*Assistant Lecturer*—R. B. Hunter, of Mecklenburg.
*Door-Keeper*—W. H. Tomlinson, of Cumberland.
*Assistant Door-Keeper*—H. E. King, of Onslow.
*Sergeant-at-Arms*—J. S. Holt, of Harnett.

Bro. Graham introduced the following:

*Resolved*, That so much of the Constitution as provides for the election of a Business Agent by the State Alliance is hereby suspended for the period of twelve months, and the appointment of said Agent is hereby given to the Executive Committee for that time.

Bro. Mewborne moved to amend, as follows:

*Provided*, That said committee shall appoint no one who is not a member of the Alliance.

The amendment was adopted, and the resolution, as amended, passed.

Bro. Elias Carr tendered his resignation as a member of the Executive Committee, and it was accepted.

Bro. Thaddeus Ivy tendered his resignation as a member of the Executive Committee, and declined a re-election.

The Alliance proceeded to fill these vacancies, when Bro. S. B. Alexander was unanimously elected to succeed Bro. Ivy, and Bro. J. M. Mewborne to succeed Bro. Carr.

The election for delegates to the Farmers' and Laborers' Union, which meets in the city of St. Louis, December 5, 1889, was held.

Bro. Julian Allen nominated Bro. S. B. Alexander and Bro. L. L. Polk as delegates for the State-at-large, and they were unanimously elected.

The balloting for the other delegates resulted in electing Bros. Elias Carr, W. A. Graham, E. A. Moye and A. J. Dalby.

On motion, the Alliance adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow.

## THURSDAY—Morning Session.

Fayetteville, N. C., August 15, 1889.

The Alliance met, President Alexander in the chair.

Various reports from committees, and resolutions, were presented and placed on the Calendar.

On motion, all speeches were limited to five minutes.

A resolution was adopted requesting Bro. Ivy to install the newly-elected officers immediately after the noon recess.

Bro. J. A. Davis introduced a resolution as follows:

*Resolved*, That we, the members of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, do especially recommend that the *Rural Home*, published in Toisnot, N. C., and the *Country Homes*, published in Asheville, N. C., both Alliance papers, should be supported and read by all Alliance members.

On motion, the resolution was amended by adding "The Progressive Farmer, our State organ," and it was adopted.

By Bro. J. F. Payne—

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance be and the same are hereby extended to our retiring President, Bro. S. B. Alexander, for the faithful, able and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of this body during his term of office. We hereby place upon record our high appreciation of his usefulness as a citizen, his efficiency as a presiding officer, and his eminent services to our order and to the country; and we desire that he shall take home with him the heart-felt affection of the entire brotherhood.

Bro. Payne put the question, and it was adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

Bro. Alexander responded to this expression of esteem in feeling and appropriate words.

Bro. W. A. Darden, State Business Agent, made a statement as to the operations of his department, and concluded by tendering his resignation as Business Agent.

On motion of Bro. Julian Allen, the resignation was accepted, and a tender of thanks to Bro. Darden for his services was made by a rising vote.

On motion, the election of a Business Agent was made the special order for 8:30 this evening.

Bro. D. Reid Parker offered the following:

WHEREAS, Our worthy President, Bro. S. B. Alexander, and Bro. C. W. Macune, our National President, have frequently advised the members of our order to subscribe for and read and circulate our organ, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER: therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we give our organ our hearty support, and do hereby urge the officers of our Sub-Alliances, and all lecturers, to impress upon our membership the absolute importance of supporting our organ, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

*Resolved*, That we cordially and heartily commend also the *National Economist*, our National organ, to the generous support of the brotherhood.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The committee to whom was referred the plan adopted by Cold Water Alliance No. 1474, Cabarrus county, for the benefit of its members, reported the same favorably and recommended its publication in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Adopted.

The Committee on Immigration reported on the following resolution, introduced by Bro. Powell, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee of the State Alliance be and they are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to organize and establish a Bureau of Immigration for the purpose of making known the agricultural advantages North Carolina offers to Alliance men in other States, with a view to disposing of our surplus lands and of obtaining a desirable class of immigrants; and to effect the purposes hereby intended, they are authorized to expend out of the State Alliance treasury a sum not to exceed $..... during the next fiscal year.

Your committee have carefully considered this resolution, and beg leave to report that the time is, in their opinion, too short to affect the organization contemplated; therefore, we recommend that a committee of one be appointed by the President to take this matter under advisement; and further, to work in connection with the Bureau of Immigration of this State in securing immigrants for our State. We further recommend that the committee be authorized to expend (if so much be needed) from the State Alliance fund a sum not to exceed one hundred dollars to carry out this object; *provided*, the committee shall render,

at the next annual meeting of this body, an itemized statement of the amount so expended.

The report was adopted, and the President appointed Bro. Julian Allen as the agent.

On motion, the Alliance adjourned to meet at 2:30 P. M.

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AFTERNOON SESSION, August 15, 1889.

The Alliance was opened in due form at 2:30, President Alexander in the chair.

The installation of officers was conducted by Bro. Ivy, and President Carr was conducted to the chair.

A resolution, by Bros. Coffield and J. A. Davis, authorizing the Treasurer to advance to the State Business Agent the sum of $3,000, to be used in securing cotton bagging, was endorsed by the committee to whom it was referred, and the report was adopted.

A resolution, by Bro. Green, of Harnett, relating to our Agricultural and Mechanical College, as follows:

*Resolved*, That we look forward to and will hail with pleasure the opening of the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Raleigh; and whereas, the success of said institution will depend largely upon the support and patronage of the Alliances and farmers throughout the State, in which we feel a deep interest; and whereas, said institution is now without a President, and it being expedient that said college should be opened as soon as practicable, there being a large number of patrons ready to enter said college; now, we, the State Alliance in Convention assembled, do most earnestly and respectfully submit that merit always deserves its rewards, and all things being equal, that we should patronize our own institutions and men of North Carolina; and we do further submit that in the person of Professor J. E. Kelly, and others in North Carolina, will be found all the qualifications necessary to make a President that would bring credit to the institution and honor to the State.

*Resolved*, That we do recommend to the consideration of the honorable Board of Trustees of said college the name of that cultivated Christian gentleman and finished scholar, Professor and Bro. John E. Kelly, of Moore county, for the presidency of said college. His testimonials are of the highest order, and he stands the equal of any man in the State in all that would pertain towards the make-up of an efficient President for this noble work.

Adopted.

Bro. E. A. Moye introduced resolutions endorsing the proposed consolidation of the N. F. A. and C. U. of A., the National Union and the National Agricultural Wheel, and ratifying the proposed constitution, and endorsing the action of the Birmingham Conference; which resolutions were adopted.

Bro. Moye, a resolution to amend section 11 of the plan adopted for operating the State Business Agency, by striking out, in line three of said section, the words "the profits received from said fund," and insert in lieu thereof the words, "the treasury of the State Alliance." The amendment was adopted.

By Bro. Ivy—

*Resolved*, That we will give our support or patronage to no manufacturing company or wholesale house who will not deal with our agents, and that we will give those houses the preference who are willing to deal direct with us.

Adopted.

The Committee on Demands and Resolutions recommended the adoption of the following:

WHEREAS, An attempt has been, or is being made to organize a trust on manufactured tobacco: therefore be it

*Resolved*, That this State Alliance do recommend to all members of the Alliance to use only the tobacco manufactured by members of our order; and further, that we recommend the same tobacco to the public generally.

*Resolved*, That we recommend that members of the Alliance raising tobacco sell the same in Alliance tobacco warehouses, wherever such are accessible.

The resolutions were adopted.

Bro. Neal, for special committee on the handling of cotton, made the following report:

In consideration of the short time now at the disposal of the State Alliance for devising and maturing a system for the handling of the present crop, we recommend the following:

1. That the Subordinate and County Alliances adopt such plans for disposing of the cotton crop as may best be suited to their various sections.

2. That in making any arrangement we would advise the co-operation of as many counties as practicable, who may have a common market, and that they observe as nearly as practicable the plan recommended by the National Alliance at its last meeting.

3. That our State Executive Committee take into consideration a plan for the handling of our cotton crop, and report the same to the next annual meeting of this State Alliance.

The report was adopted.

Bro. Ivy, chairman of the select committee of nine appointed to nominate a suitable member for the position of State Business Agent, reported the name of Bro. W. A. Graham for the position.

The following resolutions were offered by Bro. S. B. Alexander:

*Resolved*, That all demands for political legislation be submitted to the Subordinate Alliances for ratification.

*Resolved*, That the State Executive Committee be and it is hereby instructed to provide suitable methods for carrying into effect the above resolution, and also plans by which our order may enforce its demands.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

On motion, the Alliance went into an election for the place at which the next annual session of the Alliance should be held, and it was decided that Asheville be the place.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this State Alliance that no farmer should sell his cotton-seed for less than twenty-five cents per bushel, unless it be to mills not controlled by trusts.

Adopted.

By Bro. Howland—

*Resolved*, That the State Secretary be and he is hereby directed to publish a list of the County Secretaries, County Business Agents, and State officers, and forward to the County Secretaries, to be kept strictly as Alliance property.

Adopted.

By Bro. Moye—

*Resolved*, That wherever the word "country" appears in our State Constitution in connection with persons, such as country school-teachers, country physicians, country mechanics, etc., it is to be construed to mean persons living outside incorporated towns and cities.

Adopted.

On motion, the Alliance adjourned to meet at 8:15 P. M

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EVENING SESSION, August 15, 1889.

The Alliance was called to order, President Carr in the chair.

Special order being the election of State Business Agent, Bro. W. A. Graham was elected, but notified the Alliance that he could not, in justice to his interests, accept unless his salary should be twenty-five hundred dollars.

Bro. McIntyre introduced the following:

WHEREAS, Brother Thad. Ivy, our first Vice-President, was the first member of the Farmers' Alliance in North Carolina; and whereas, since our first organization Brother Ivy has been unremitting in his endeavors to advance our principles and to perfect our organization: therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this body be extended to Brother Ivy, and that he be assured of the esteem and fraternal regard of the Alliance.

Adopted unanimously.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance are due, and they are hereby heartily tendered, to those members of our last General Assembly who, in recognition of the just rights of the people, labored to secure a Railroad Commission.

Unanimously adopted.

Bro. J. F. Payne introduced the following:

WHEREAS, It was resolved by the Convention of the National Alliance and Wheel, held in the city of Birmingham on the 15th of May, 1889, to adopt the permanent use of cotton bagging as covering for cotton; and whereas, it was further resolved that we adopt such means as might be deemed proper to carry into effect the action of said Convention; and

whereas, the action of said Birmingham Convention has been approved and ratified by the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance at its present session: therefore be it

*Resolved*, 1. That we do pledge ourselves to stand to and abide by the action, in this respect, both of the National and State Alliance.

2. That we pledge ourselves not to use, at any time or in any way, new or unused jute bagging as covering for our cotton, and in such cases where cotton bagging cannot be obtained in sufficient quantity to supply our wants, that we will use some other covering—always adhering to our pledge, *never*, under any circumstances, to resort to the use of new or unused jute bagging.

3. That we call upon all farmers, and all good men throughout the land, to aid and support us in this effort to break up and put down this iniquitous fraud, known as the "Jute Bagging Trust."

4. That we again denounce and condemn this jute bagging trust as an engine of oppression, designed to cheat, oppress and defraud our people.

5. That we declare our judgment to be, that any member of the Alliance wilfully using jute bagging is guilty of conduct unbecoming an Alliance man; and we recommend that any brother so offending, and upon conviction of such ofience, should be suspended or expelled from the order.

Adopted.

By Bro. Perry—

WHEREAS, An act was passed by the Legislature of North Carolina of 1889, incorporating the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance: therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we, the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, on the 15th day of August, in the county of Cumberland, town of Fayetteville, do hereby accept and ratify said act of the Legislature incorporating said Alliance.

Adopted.

Bro. Geo. Williamson, the following:

WHEREAS, The question of fertilizers is of vast importance to the farmers of the State:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee of the Farmers' State Alliance be instructed to inquire into the feasibility of utilizing the convict labor of the State in the manipulation and manufacture of a standard fertilizer under the supervision and control of our agricultural department.

*Resolved*, If thought to be practicable, that the committee shall formu-

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late some plan and memorialize our next Legislature to pass such laws as may be needed to accomplish the object aimed at.

Adopted.

Resolution by Bro. Fleming, specially and cordially inviting the sisters in our order to attend our annual meetings, was adopted.

The following standing committee was announced by President Carr:

*Judiciary Committee*—W. A. Graham, of Lincoln; J. L. McLean, of Robeson; E. A. Moye, of Pitt; J. M. Brame, of Warren; E. D. Davis, of Jackson.

On motion, the Alliance proceeded to the election of a Business Agent, and Bro. W. A. Darden was elected, but declined unless he be allowed the services of a good bookkeeper.

The Alliance again proceeded to ballot, when Bro. W. H. Worth, of Lenoir, was elected.

Bro. Davis, of Edgecombe, offered resolutions of thanks to the hotels of Fayetteville and the railroads for reduced rates to the delegates, which were adopted.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That in creating the important office of Secretary of Agriculture by the Congress of the United States, we, the farmers of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, accept it as a just recognition of the dignity and importance of the great agricultural interests of the country and a long-delayed recognition of our just rights.

*Resolved*, That the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance tenders to Secretary Rusk its appreciation of his prompt action, on our behalf, in the matter of securing for the cotton farmers a just and equitable tare in foreign markets.

On motion, the Alliance adjourned to meet in the city of Asheville on the second Tuesday in August, 1890.

L. L. POLK,
*Secretary State Alliance.*

# OFFICERS

OF THE

# North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

PRESIDENT:

ELIAS CARR ..... Old Sparta, N. C.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

A. H. HAYES ..... Birdtown, N. C.

SECRETARY:

L. L. POLK ..... Raleigh, N. C.

TREASURER:

J. D. ALLEN ..... Falls, N. C.

LECTURER:

T. B. LONG ..... Longs, N. C.

ASSISTANT LECTURER:

R. B. HUNTER ..... Charlotte, N. C.

CHAPLAIN:

REV. J. J. SCOTT ..... Alfordsville, N. C.

DOOR-KEEPER:

W. H. TOMLINSON ..... Fayetteville, N. C.

ASSISTANT DOOR KEEPER:

H. E. KING ..... Peanut, N. C.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:

J. S. HOLT ..... Chalk Level, N. C.

BUSINESS AGENT:

W. H. WORTH ..... Raleigh, N. C.

TRUSTEE OF BUSINESS AGENCY FUND:

W. A. GRAHAM ..... Machpelah, N. C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

S. B. ALEXANDER ..... Charlotte, N. C.
J. S. JOHNSTON ..... Ruffin, N. C.
J. M. MEWBORNE ..... Kinston, N. C.

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Farmers' State Alliance of North Carolina

Proceedings of the ... annual session